



MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OF ALASKA

BOX 2037

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

April 1985

Volume 28, Issue 04

APRIL MEETING

The meeting will be held Wednesday, April 17th at 7:30 p.m. in the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle St., Anchorage, Alaska. After the business meeting, Mark Skok will present a slide show on his search for the specter of cold weather injury. The selected short subject is a slide presentation on skiing in Idaho's Sawtooth Mountains.

MINUTES FOR THE MARCH MEETING

The meeting was held on March 20, 1985 on the top floor of the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle Sts. The meeting was called to order by President Doug Van Etten.

TREASURER'S REPORT

\$ 495.46 -Petty Cash
2455.57 -Money Market Plus Account
776.26 -Bank Account
\$3691.29 -Total

Dues are \$7.50 for individual and \$10.00 for family. Membership cards are not mailed unless you send in a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

I. Old Business

None.

II. New Business

- A. The hiking committee reports that the hiking season is coming to us this month. A list of all the hikes will be published in Scree each month until September.
- B. The library committee reports that the library is open for use. You must have an MCA card to check out books.
- C. The first aid committee reported that the seminar given by the Guides Association on March 15-17 was excellent.
- D. The program committee is looking for ideas, suggestions, slide shows, etc. Contact Mark Findlay (phone number on back page). For May there will be an equipment swap at the end of the business meeting.
- E. Announcements

The avalanche school sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation is apparently in danger of being cut from the state budget. If you wish to have this program continued, write your representatives, especially the governor. Lets show support for a much needed program.

Anyone interested in forming or joining a 'D' league softball team contact Bernie Helms (phone number on back page).

The Depaartment of Natural Resources is asking for public input concerning a management study for the Hatcher Pass Area. At issue will be the policies and future use of a very large area which includes our Mint Hut. Other special interest groups are already giving their ideas. The MCA needs to be represented! We need to come up with specific recommendations on paper for the area.

A meeting will be held May 2, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Central Junior High. Contact Tim Neale for details. (274-4952.)

Thanks to Bill Wakeland for his slide show on last summer's Brooks Range trip. A trip report will follow in this issue.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nan DeGood

Secretary

TRIP REPORTS

John River Trip, Brooks Range July 28-August 11, 1984

We flew from Fairbanks to Bettles on Frontier Airlines, in worsening weather. Gear over 40 lbs. apiece cost 34 cents per lb. and the Kleppers weigh about 100 lb. each. That night we tented on the commons next to Bettles Lodge. It rained most of the night and the next morning, but we got to see the opening and early events of the 23rd Olympics on the TV, via satellite. Ron Costello, Brooks Range Aviation, got us delivered to Agiak Lake, on the Continental Divide about 30 miles SW of Anaktuvuk, in two trips via his Beaver in lousy weather, starting about 9 a.m. Agiak is the beginning of the Hunt Fork of the John River, located in a wide, treeless tundra valley at 3100 feet. It was blowing a gale, drizzling and 39 degrees. Some of us had light bags and never did get warm.

The kayaks, food, fuel, and canoes (rented in Bettles) were to be flown in to us later.

Monday the 30th continued cold and windy, but with less rain--the weather was almost promising at times! The terrain was not bad as we hiked east toward the headwaters of Loon Cr. However, we had, for various reasons, several slow hikers and made only about 7 miles in spite of an early start--setting the tone for the rest of the trip.

Our group consisted of Penn and Marty Bassett, Ray Rossbrok, the Clough family of Jerry, Susan, Cameron and Garrett, Bill Rowe, Loren and Carol Pahlke, Alex Sisson and myself.

More wind and rain that night, and after a late start we made our way into the wind and turned the corner into Loon Cr., not without incident. First, a lost boot search and rescue along a swift little creek, and then a couple of search-find-and chew out missions for a non-conformist. Camp that night was a sheltered spot along a small creek above Loon Lake, with brush for a sock-drying hop around a fire. Spirits rose immeasurably.

We'd seen one griz and four sheep, a couple of moose on the John River. It is pretty country around Loon Lake, with some flowers, wild scenery and firewood!

Next day, the 1st, we moved out around the lake on a game trail, but the going got progressively worse and we headed downhill for Loon Cr., where we camped on a bar by the rain-swollen creek, barely getting our tents up before the rain came in droves. By now all boots and all tents but Marty's V.E. 24 were leaking. Loren and Carol found a dry spot under a spruce tree for dinner. And of course Penn fixed the usual gourmet meal under a fly. My tentmate Alex let me know that there was WATER in my dandy little Goretex tent.

We packed up the wet tents and headed down the stream bars next morning to the Hunt Fork, also in flood stage, where we had to make several detours up and along the steep, brushy, deadfall-laden sidehill. At this point, four of us went ahead of the rest to try to get to the plane rendezvous in time to meet Ron. Camp that night was again strewn with drying gear. Many moose tracks down below timberline, a few bear tracks and a number of huge wolf tracks, and caribou tracks. Next day was largely flat going and brushy with some open river bar terrain to the Hunt Fork.

We found a backpack stuck in a logjam along the Hunt Fork—it had been ransacked for valuables, but inside was a diary. The author was a girl, who had left Anaktuvuk early in June 1982, along with a male companion (with whom she did not get along very well). Most interesting reading! So far we have no clues about what happened to her. Maybe he's still around somewhere and she isn't!

Our lead party beat the plane to the lake, and so did the rest of the gang—Gerry hobbling along with one leg splinted up with a small tree—thanks to Dr. Rowe. We were all able to send back any surplus gear, such as backpacks, and I traded my little tent for a VE 24 (scoring a few points with Alex).

Ron flew in all the stuff, including two 18-foot canoes, in one trip. The weather was improving fast, but the river was not. We spent the next morning, August 4, in the sun, drying more gear and putting together the kayaks and stowing gear. Alex and I, Marty and Ray, Loren and Carol had double kayaks, while Bill Rowe and Penn had single ones, and the Cloughs had the two canoes.

After some instructions on river kayak handling by Bill Rowe, we set off into the fast moving John River. Alex and I soon learned several things rather rapidly. One, we were both hard-headed. Two, only one person can be captain. Three, his river raft and canoe experience and my limited ocean-going kayak experience were of very limited benefit on a fast moving river. In no time at all we managed to get broadside in a dinky little channel, doing everything wrong, and were up to our necks in ice water unbelievably quick. After pouring out the water and finding all our gear (not all had been tied in), we joined the others in the lee of a small island, where Marty wisely decreed we would camp, dry out and warm up. Fortunately, it was not raining. In spite of so-called waterproof bags, most of our stuff was wet -- except for sleeping bag and cameras.

Alex and I were very attentive next morning when Bill gave us more instructions on kayak handling, and did progressively better that day. But it was Penn's turn. She swamped on another sweeper in a much "heavier" piece of water than we had, and then did everything right to recover, and was soon pulled to shore. The river slowed as the rain let up and we had some nice days, even staying over two nights on Sheep Creek near Gunsight Mt., where I caught a nice greyling for breakfast. From that camp, Bill Rowe, Loren and Carol climbed Gunsight, while Alex and I went up "Shark's Tooth" and 4136, to the NE. We could see in all directions, and the

"Hickel Highway", or original winter haul road to the north slope, up the John River valley was very visible.

These warm, sunny days made it all worthwhile, and it was great to get out and hike again. Evenings around fires, singing all the songs any of us knew, were especially good.

And then it started blowing and raining again -- one hasty camp was made necessary to thaw out Cameron and Garrett who were in the early stages of hypothermia. Otherwise the canoes did a good job, or I should say the neophyte canoeists did a good job. They were colder and harder to paddle into the wind, but were more "logical" to paddle. Incidentally, we found that rudders on the kayaks were a hindrance in fast water, but a help in slower water. A double Klepper is, in a fast river, about as maneuverable as a large, rotten log!!!!

The rest of the trip was anti-climatic. We put into old Bettles, on the Koyukuk below the junction with the John, where we took pictures of the original, and largely abandoned, settlement, took down the kayaks, and waited for our river boats from Bettles Airstrip to pick us up, and transport us upstream. Special thanks are due to the two ladies, Penn and Susan, for their good cheer under all conditions, and to Marty for planning this dual trip that was successful inspite of the terrible weather.

Bill Wakeland



HIKING AND CLIMBING SCHEDULE

- April 13 TELEMARK TRIP
Meet 11 a.m. in the Glen Alps parking lot. All levels of skiing experience welcome. Bring your skins and sharpen your edges!
Leaders: Dan O'Haire 248-3634 and Trisha Herminghaus
- 13 BIRD RIDGE
4-5 miles; 2900' elevation gain; strenuous. Meet 8 a.m. UAA parking lot.
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829
- 14 JOHNSON TRAIL
Length to be determined by trail conditions and party members. Easy. Call leader. Meet 8 a.m. UAA parking lot.
Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246
- 20 PENGUIN PEAK
4300' elevation gain; ice axe needed; crampons suggested; strenuous. Meet 7 a.m. UAA parking lot.
Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656 work: 563-3585
- 21 NEAR POINT
Easy. Leader needed.
- 27 LAZY MOUNTAIN
4 miles; 2900' elevation gain; near Palmer, nice views, may be windy; moderate.
Leader: John Lohff 337-2291
- 28 BYRON PEAK
4500' elevation gain; sit harness, ice axe, crampons, glacier gear required. Long and strenuous day. Meet 6:30 a.m. UAA parking lot.
Leader: Paul Denkwalter 248-1457 work: 272-1811
- May 4 O'MALLEY PEAK
Ice axe required. Crampons suggested. Meet 8 a.m. UAA parking lot.
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829

- 5 RENDEZVOUS PEAK
3 1/2 miles; 1500' elevation gain; behind Arctic Valley ski area;
moderate. Meet 9:00 a.m. UAA parking lot. 55 ways #36.
Leader: Pat Thompson 344-1167
- 4-5 GULL ROCK
Easy and enjoyable. Children 9 yrs. and older are welcome.
8:00 a.m. UAA parking lot; 55 ways #17. Call leader.
Leader: Reggie Buchanan 333-7649
- 11 RAINBOW MOUNTAIN
4 miles, 3400' elevation gain; trail part way from Rainbow Valley
strenuous. Meet 8:00 a.m. UAA parking lot.
Leader: Gene Klymko 346-2953
- 12 JOHNSON TRAIL
Length to be determined by trail conditions and party members.
Meet 8:00 a.m. UAA parking lot. Easy.
Leader: Nan De Good 337-4875
- 18 Trail Clearing
Leader Needed.
- 19 WINNER CREEK
Leader needed.
- 25 DEW MOUND
Leader needed.
- 26 HOPE POINT
Leader needed.
- 25-27 SHEEP VALLEY
18 miles; 3200' elevation gain, strenuous. Good side trips
middle day to Lava Peak, Red Mtn. and Upper Sheep Valley. Call
leader. Meet 8 a.m. UAA
Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246
- 25-27 RUSSIAN LAKES - RESURRECTION RIVER TRAIL
29 miles, 500' gain, strenuous. New trail, 16 miles second day.
Meet UAA 7 a.m.
Leader: Jim Pommert w:563-3585 h:344-5656

- June 1 LAZY MOUNTAIN
5 miles, 2900' elevation gain, moderate; near Palmer, nice views,
may be windy. 55 ways #43. Meet 8:00 a.m. UAA parking lot.
Leader: Esther George 337-7948
- 2 WOLVERINE MOUNTAIN
10 1/2 miles, 3380' elevation gain, strenuous; 55 ways #34. Meet
8:00 a.m. UAA parking lot
Leader: Jane Stammen 563-7703
- 8 GULL ROCK
9 miles, 700' elevation gain, family trip, easy. Meet 8 a.m.
UAA parking lot.
Leader: Pat Klouda 243-3216
- 9 TWIN PEAKS TRAIL
8 miles, 4150' gain; strenuous, loop trip. Meet 8 a.m. UAA
parking lot. 55 ways #41
Leader: Eileen Cavanaugh 337-1394
- 15-16 DEVIL'S PASS TRAIL
20 miles, 3500' gain, strenuous. In by Summit Ck. trail, out by
Devil's Cr. trail. Use overnight cabin. Meet 8 a.m. UAA
parking lot. Call leader.
Leader: Jim Pommert
- 15 PTARMIGAN PEAK
Leader needed.
- 22-23 FLATTOP SLEEPOUT
4 miles, 1350' gain, easy. A club tradition. Leave Glen Alps
parking lot anytime. Do not assemble at UAA. 55 ways #31.
Leader: Mark Findlay 337-8666
- 29-30 SOUTH FORK EAGLE RIVER TO SYMPHONY LAKE
13 miles, 800' gain, easy. Meet 8 a.m. UAA parking lot. 55 ways
#37. Call leader.
Leader: Marty Bassett 694-3917
- 29 RABBIT LAKE
Leader needed.

30 ROUNDTOP
Leader needed.

July 4-7 COOPER LAKE TO LOST LAKE
Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656 work: 563-3585

4-7 CROW PASS TO ARCTIC VALLEY
Leader: Bill Stivers 562-4885

13 WILLIWAW LAKE
Leader needed.

14 EAST TWIN PEAK
Leader: Pat Thompson 344-1167

13-14 RESURRECTION RIVER TRAIL
Leader: Bill Wakeland 563-6246

19-20 CROW PASS
Leader: Jim Pommert 344-5656 work: 563-3583

27 JUNEAU FALLS
Leader needed.

27-28 BENCH LAKE - JOHNSON LAKE TRAIL
Leader: John Lohff 337-2291

----- HARDING ICEFIELD TRAVERSE
5-day trip. Exact date to be set later.
Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132

August 2-4 TENTATION PEAK
5350' gain, strenuous. By way of Snowhawk Valley.
Leader: Stuart Grenier h:694-9755 w:337-5127

- 3-4 REED LAKES
10 miles, 1600' gain.
Leader: Nan DeGood 337-4875
- 10 CRESCENT LAKE
Leader: Don Hansen 279-0829
- 11 GLEN ALPS TO INDIAN VIA POWERLINE
Leader: Kathy Burke. 346-2841.
- 10-11 CURRY RIDGE
Leader needed.
- 17 TENTATIVE MCA PICNIC
- 17-18 PETERS HILLS
Leader: Harmut Pluntke 279-9252
- 24 WOLVERINE CANYON
Palmer area. Leader needed.
- 24-25 PETERS CREEK VALLEY
Leader needed.
- 31-2 LOST LAKE
Climb Mt. Ascension too.
Leader: Willy Hersman 338-5132
- Sept. 7 FULLER LAKE
Leader needed.
- 8 SUICIDE PEAKS
Leader needed.
- 14 THE WEDGE
Leader needed.
- 15 ESKA CREEK TRAIL
Leader needed.

21 INDIAN CREEK PASS

Leader: Jim Pommert w:563-3583 h:344-5656

28- 29 ICE CLIMBING CLASS

THE LEADER IS REQUIRED NOT TO LET INADEQUATELY EQUIPPED HIKERS
PARTICIPATE ON THE HIKE.

The hiking committee is seeking suggestions and leaders for week-long,
weekend, and day trips. Contact: Jim Pommert 344-5656 work: 563-3583; Jane
Stammen 563-7703; or Linda White 274-4989, or Kathy Burke 346-2841.

GENERAL RULES FOR MCA SANCTIONED HIKES

(April 1983 Scree, amended)

1. Proper equipment is required as follows:

<u>Day Hikes</u>	<u>Additional for Overnight or Special Situations</u>
Compass & whistle	
Raingear that works	Down or synthetic equivalent sleeping bag
Warm clothing (not cotton)	Tent (or prearranged sharing)
Hiking boots	Sleeping pad
Sunscreen & dark glasses	Stove (if need to cook or melt snow)-fires usually prohibited
Mosquito dope	Adequate food for extra day
Water	Dry clothes, socks, headgear, gloves
Energy food	Stream crossing footwear
Fire starter	Climbing or winter gear if specified by leader
First aid kit with moleskin	
Pocket knife	

2. No dogs are permitted on MCA hikes (among the reasons are bear problems).
3. The leader's suggestions are to be followed. Do not go off alone, return or rush ahead without his (her) permission, and don't ford a stream before the leader assesses the situation. Remember, this is a club hike and the leader must know where all hikers are.
4. All hikes commence at UAA Sports Complex, the west entrance, unless otherwise instructed, at a time determined by the leader.
5. You must be signed up on a trip roster (club meetings) or through contact with the leader to accompany a club sanctioned hike-or take your chances on being asked not to go.
6. When carpools are arranged, please plan to pay the driver your share without his (her) asking you. Generally, \$5 for shorter trips, \$10 to \$20 for longer ones.
7. If at the last minute you find you can't go, please let the leader know both for transportation planning and so someone else can go. If you are a leader, help find a replacement.
8. Total number of hikers on club sanctioned hikes:
Minimum: 4 (for safety reasons)
Maximum: leader option, depends upon the trail and
campsite conditions, but generally limited to 12 in
trail-less areas or State and National Parks (for
environmental reasons and maintain a wilderness experience)
9. Firearms are not encouraged, and please let the leader know if you want to carry one-it will be leader's option.

Formulated March, 1984 by Hiking Committee



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA Southcentral Region
Office of Facilities Planning & Construction
MARCH 1984

Campus Map ANCHORAGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

